

Advent AT
NewHope
EUGENE



Dear New Hope Family,

This is a season of anticipation!

The celebration of Advent can be the most meaningful of all our preparations for Christmas Day. It is a wonderful time to share in God's Word, discover His promises and the One who is the fulfillment of them all – Jesus!

In the Old Testament we watch the children of Israel live in Anticipation of the coming Messiah. As families of faith today, we anxiously await the day of His coming again.

There are many ways to celebrate Advent. Traditionally, families used Advent wreaths beginning the fourth Sunday before Christmas. Each Sunday a Scripture is read aloud about the Messiah's coming, and a candle is lit. By Christmas Day, all four candles are shining to celebrate the arrival of the Light of the world, Jesus! The following Advent materials include readings for four Sunday's, plus Christmas Day. But if Sundays don't work for you, pick the four days that work best for your household.

This Advent packet is our gift to you for your devotional time during this Christmas. A beautiful aspect of practicing Advent is that it can be scaled to whatever the needs are in your home-you may do this as a weekly small group with friends, with your spouse or roommate, or with children/grandchildren of all ages. All you'll need for this tradition is four candles to light as you read through the cards each week. We hope you will enjoy reading the Scripture each day, doing the activity, and talking with your loved ones about God's greatest gift.

Merry Christmas to all, and blessings for the New Year!

Devotional questions inspired by: Unwrapping the Greatest Gift by Ann Voskamp

A close-up photograph of a branch with several small, round, red berries. The berries and the branch are covered in a fine layer of white frost. The background is a soft, out-of-focus blue and purple, suggesting a winter scene. The text 'Hope & Promise' is written in a white, elegant script font on the left side of the image.

Hope & Promise

ADVENT WEEK 1

Hope and Promise

At the time of the day that works best for you, start by lighting the first candle of hope and promise.

Read the following Scripture and share your thoughts about the devotional question. Have fun singing the Christmas carol and doing the activity together. Close your time with a thankful prayer for the hope Jesus brings.

SCRIPTURE READING | Isaiah 11:1-2, 10

The lighting of the first candle symbolizes the light of Christ who is promised to a dark world: this is our hope in the promises of God. Over 700 years before the birth of Christ, God promised a Savior....

Out of the stump of David's family will grow a shoot-yes a new Branch bearing fruit from the old root. And the Spirit of the LORD will rest on him-the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.... In that day the heir to David's throne will be a banner of salvation to all the world. The nations will rally to him, and the land where he lives will be a glorious place.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Christmas Carol

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

ACTIVITY

In preparation for this week's activity gather a pair of new socks, toothbrush and toothpaste, toiletries, small snacks like granola bars, etc. Then by candlelight of your first advent candle place the items in a shoe box or gift bag. Be sure to include a note about the hope of God's love. Decorate it if you wish. Then together deliver it to someone who is homeless or to the Eugene Mission.

DEVOTIONAL QUESTIONS AND PRAYER

- When have you found hope in a really hard situation?
- Who in your life needs to know that God loves them?
- How can you show God's love to them?

Lord God, Your love gives us hope. Teach our hearts to love you more and to share that love with others who desperately need to find your hope and comfort in this world. Amen.

Extinguish the candle until next week.

A collection of star-shaped cookies, likely made of oatmeal, arranged in a diagonal line from the top left towards the bottom right. Each cookie is decorated with a diagonal stripe of dark chocolate and topped with a variety of small, colorful sprinkles. The background is a plain, light gray surface.

Love & Prophecy

ADVENT WEEK 2

Love and Prophecy

Light the first and second candle.

The increase in the light from week to week is meant to symbolize the coming of the light of the world – JESUS. The second candle is said to represent love and prophecy of the coming Savior.

SCRIPTURE READING | Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

The people who walk in darkness will see a great light. For those who live in a land of deep darkness, a light will shine....

For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His government and its peace will never end. He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David for all eternity. The passionate commitment of the LORD of Heaven's Armies will make this happen!

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus
Light of the World
Handel's Messiah (play and shout the names as they are sung)

ACTIVITY

Decide how you can be a light in someone's world this week. Bring cookies to a neighbor? Give a co-worker or child teacher a coffee gift card? Help someone clean up their yard?

DEVOTIONAL QUESTIONS AND PRAYER

- What does it mean to you that Jesus is our Light?
- Talk about each name listed in the Scripture above.
- How is Jesus a fulfillment of each of these names?

Lord, we lit this candle tonight to thank you for your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, who is the light of the world. We once lived in darkness, but in you we have seen a great light of salvation. Thank you! Amen.

Extinguish the candles until next week.



Joy & Proclamation

ADVENT WEEK 3

Joy & Proclamation

Light the third candle along with the first and second.

The third candle represents joy and proclamations as we rejoice that the coming of our Savior is near.

SCRIPTURE READING | Luke 1:28-35, 38

Gabriel appeared to Mary and said, "Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!" Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. "Don't be afraid, Mary," the angel told her, "for you have found favor with God! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus, He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!" Mary asked the angel, "But how can this happen? I am a virgin." The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you, So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God.".....Mary responded, "I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true," And then the angel left her.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

While Shepherd Watch Their Flocks
Hark the Herald Angels Sing

ACTIVITY

Create a craft for your home or for someone else that proclaims joy. Ideas: a garland banner that spells out "Joy," homemade Christmas cards with the message of joy, or a Christmas ornament with the word "Joy"

DEVOTIONAL QUESTIONS AND PRAYER

- How did you feel in your heart when you first believed Jesus to be your Lord and Savior?
- Tell your story of loving Jesus to your family.

Lord God, You Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, has brought us great joy! Teach us to be brave hearted and bold in telling others that Jesus lives and reigns in the hearts of those who trust in Him. Amen.

Extinguish the candles until next week.



Peace & Presence

ADVENT WEEK 4

Peace & Presence

Light your fourth candle along with the first, second, and third.

It represents peace and the constant presence of the Savior with us.

SCRIPTURE READING | Luke 2:11-19

"The Savior-yes, the Messiah, the Lord-has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! And you will recognize him by this sign; You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger." Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others-the armies of the heaven-praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased."...

(The shepherds) hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was a baby, lying in the manger. After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child. All who heard the shepherd's story were astonished, but Mary kept all these things in her heart and thought about them often.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

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| O Holy Night | Away in a Manger |
| Silent Night | The First Noel |
| Angels We Have Heard On High | |

ACTIVITY

Take a moment to remember a time when you were assured by God's Presence and how it helped you have peace. Share your story with each other.

DEVOTIONAL QUESTIONS AND PRAYER

- Think about what it means to have Jesus with you everywhere and all the time.
- How does He make a difference in your life?
- When you feel like you've messed up and you're far away from God, what does He do?

Lord God, Your word says in Isaiah (49:16) that you have written our names on the palms of your hands. Thank you for this promise of how you will never forget us. Help us to remember your love and nearness when we feel forgotten, and help us to bring that good news to others who may feel forgotten. Amen.

Extinguish the candles until next week.

*the Light
of the World is Here*

CHRISTMAS DAY

Christmas Day

Light all the candles.....It is time to celebrate the birth of Christ, "light of the world!"

SCRIPTURE READING | John 14:25-29

"These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. You have heard Me say to you, I am going away and coming back to you. If you loved Me, you would rejoice because I said, I am going to the Father, for My father is greater than I. And now I have told you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe."

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Joy to the World
Go Tell It On the Mountain
All Hail the Power of Jesus Name

ACTIVITY

Add birthday candles to your Christmas dessert and sing "Happy Birthday" to Jesus.

DEVOTIONAL QUESTIONS AND PRAYER

Use your imagination and describe what seeing Jesus face to face will be like.

- What will you say to Him?
- What questions will you ask Him?
- What famous Bible person would you like to meet?

Lord God, We who live in this troubled world have found peace in the promise of eternal life through Jesus Christ, who is the Prince of Peace. Help us to tell the world of your great, good news. Amen.

Need inspiration for setting up your Advent candle display?

Here are a few ideas!





The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light...

ISAIAH 9:2A